



MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational fishing is very busy...and explaining the three-inch size limit for harvesting oysters and why there are so few quahogs are the main education points for our seasonal constable.
- Oysters are growing quickly all over the harbor. There was a very good set of oyster spat all around Wellfleet harbor. This is very encouraging for the future wild oyster fishery.
- There are fewer wild fishermen picking. This is a usual drop in effort as some have grants they are working, and others don't want to deal with the stringent vibrio regulations.
- A few boats are bringing in blood clams and quahogs, and we have worked out good vibrio operation plans with boats dragging for oysters.
- Through July, we have sold 784 recreational shellfishing permits = \$39,175. This is in addition to our 157 commercial permit sales = \$36,285, bringing total shellfishing permit sales up to \$75,460 for 2018.

Enforcement

- We recommended that the Board of Selectmen revoke a fisherman's commercial shellfishing permit for the rest of the year, and the board voted in favor of the revocation and upheld its vote at the appeal hearing.
- We are conducting spot seed checks on wild fishermen....this has resulted in educational conversations on the flats and some documented verbal warnings.
- We issued one written warning for a seed violation and failure to correctly tag oysters going to market.
- We have been conducting thorough vibrio control checks and have given a few verbal warnings on exposure time. By and large however, these complete checks reveal excellent icing of oysters and detailed logbook entries – local fishermen are working hard to bring the safest product to market.
- During boat patrol, Deputy Constable Chris Manulla found a buoy with a cage of oysters and blood clams. This is illegal wet storage, and the shellfish was confiscated.
- More than 100 bushels of oysters were harvested commercially in July by hand pickers.
- We did a few grant inspections on Indian Neck and did a walk out to Egg Island to inventory how things looked.
- In the recreational fishery, 11 verbal warnings about seed were given along with plenty of education, and three catches were confiscated (thrown back) because of too much seed. One person was found to be shellfishing without a permit, and three people were suspected of hiding buckets of shellfish over their limits.
- Nearly 15 bushels of quahogs, 3.5 bushels of steamers and more than 64 bushels of oysters were harvested from the Indian Neck recreational area in July.
- We stopped a tourist from harvesting oysters on Kellers Corner and spent time educating him.
- The department has responded to many calls about dogs on the bay beaches, especially the Indian Neck area from Burton Baker to Field Point.

State and Town Relations

- Shellfish Constable Nancy Civetta was reappointed by the Selectboard to a three-year term, beginning Aug. 10, 2018.

- We took delivery of our new truck and saved the town almost \$3,000 (and got delivery in two weeks instead of three months) by collecting bids locally at the end of the fiscal year. The DPW added a WSD stencil to both doors. Some call it Black Beauty, others the Black Widow.
- We had an FDA audit of how the state's vibrio control plan is working on the flats in Wellfleet. I am proud (but not surprised) to say that we passed the federal inspection with flying colors! They were especially appreciative of all the hard work farmers and fishermen are doing to comply with the plan and bring the coldest, freshest, best quality oysters to market.

Propagation

- We have recruited a small volunteer group of commercial and recreational permit holders to help us with our planting activities.
- Our oysters are growing like crazy, and Assistant Constable John Mankevetch and crew have been busy making bags and separating oysters into smaller density bags.
- We planted 99,000 baby quahogs on our propagation bed.
- We had an Americorps project day with four members spending the day with Asst. Constable John Mankevetch making oyster grow bags and helping on our propagation bed. The members told Johnny that they learned more from him on the propagation bed than they did at all their other aquaculture project days combined!
- Although marginally seaworthy, we got the barge working enough to do another four full days of sea clam cultching around the harbor with the assistance of the DPW. The sea clam cultch provides optimum habitat for oyster larvae to settle, and spat is already visible on our rows.
- We worked with the only bidder for building our new cultch barge, Bay Sails Marine, to bring the price down to meet our budget.

Education & Outreach

- Asst. Constable Mankevetch was featured in a TV show about clamming in Wellfleet that aired in July in N.H. and online [here](#).
- Constable Civetta took two representatives of the nonprofit Wellfleet SPAT on patrol to give them an up close look at the shellfish industry at work while discussing marketing issues.
- We also began a "Ride Along" program with Town Accountant Connie Boulos, who came on patrol with Constable Civetta. The department feels it is a good idea for town employees to understand the amount of people in our community who rely on shellfishing to make their livings and get a chance to see how important this industry is to our town. We are inviting any employee who would like to learn more to join us on patrol. Email [me](#) to set it up!
- One recreational Shellfish Crier was distributed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable